

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7712

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN VS

SUBJECT: IBM INTERESTS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

1. BRUCE THOMSON, GENERAL MANAGER OF IBM THAILAND VISITED EMBASSY FEBRUARY 3 TO CALL TO OUR ATTENTION SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING IBM AND SOUTH VIET-NAM. FIRST, HE SAID HE THOUGHT DEPARTMENT WAS ALREADY AWARE THAT AN INTERMEDIARY CONTACTED IBM SINGAPORE WITHIN THE PAST MONTH SEEKING TO PURCHASE SPARE PARTS FOR THE IBM EQUIPMENT IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. IBM DENIED THE REQUEST BUT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO RECEIVE ANOTHER ONE AT SOME OTHER POINT ON THE GLOBE.

2. SECOND, HE NOTED THAT ONLY THE SECOND IBM EMPLOYEE HAS SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING SAIGON SINCE THE TAKE-OVER, IN THIS CASE A REFUGEE WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG THREE WEEKS AGO. THOMSON PLANS TO BE IN THAT CITY FEB 5 AND WILL ARRANGE FOR LAHIGUERRA TO MEET HER, IF HE HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO. THOMSON SAID THAT IBM REMAINS INTERESTED IN TRANSMITTING FUNDS TO ITS FORMER EMPLOYEES STILL IN SAIGON BUT ADMITTED THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY BETWEEN IBM AND THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS ISSUE.

3. FINALLY, THOMSON SAID THAT IBM HAS ASSIGNED AN EMPLOYEE, CHARLES FENICH, TO FOLLOW QUESTIONS CONCERNING IBM HARDWARE

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REMAINING IN SAIGON. (TO THE BEST OF IBM'S KNOWLEDGE,

NONE HAS BEEN SHIPPED TO THE NORTH). ASKED WITH WHOM FENICH SHOULD BE IN CONTACT IN THE DEPARTMENT, EMBOFF SUGGESTED NAMES OF JAMES ROSENTHAL OF EA/VLC.

4. WE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THOMSON'S VISIT AND PROMISED TO REMAIN ALERT TO ANY NEWS OF IBM'S VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES OR ASSETS.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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